

North Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes – Regular Meeting – January 21, 2025

Attendees

“(t)” indicates presence via tele-conference, “(p)” indicates proxy vote.

Board – Present	Board – Absent with Notice
Brad Rader (t) Kevin Te Velde Mitch Moorlag	Harman Brar Kevin Engelsma

Staff and Consultants	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Gavin Willis	Ag Water Board
Katie Faber (t)	AESI
Jay Chennault (t)	AESI
Tania Grim	Ag Water Board
Fred Likkel	Whatcom Family Farmers

Other Guests	
Name	Organization / Affiliation
Alan Chapman (t)	Whatcom Conservation District
Alex Harris (t)	Whatcom County PDS

Proceedings

Meeting was called to order at 9:03 am

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Agenda was reviewed.
- b. Minutes from the November 19 meeting were reviewed.
- c. Financial reports were reviewed.
- d. Voucher NL-Gen-0125 in the amount of \$3987.50 was reviewed.
- e. Kevin T moved to approve the consent agenda. Brad seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Administration

- a. Mitch signed Oath of Office. Brad will sign the Oath of Office at the February meeting.
- b. Election of officers took place
 - i. Mitch nominated Brad as AWB rep. Kevin T seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
 - ii. Mitch nominates Kevin T as President. Brad seconded. Carried unanimously.

3. Ag Water Board / Water Supply

- a. Gavin provided an adjudication update.
 - i. Hearing in December and January resulted in the approval of the claims form. An additional hearing will be held later this month to approve the service list. The claims filing deadline is set for May 1, 2026.

- ii. Whatcom County is asking for additional funds from the legislature for adjudication support, with the expectation that some of those funds will be passed through to AWB for additional office hours.
- iii. SB 5251, which would allow pre-code water users who haven't previously filed a statement of claim to participate in the adjudication, had a hearing in the Senate Ag and Natural Resources Committee this past Thursday. Bill testified on behalf of Ag Water Board. Sharon Shewmake sponsored. Ecology testified as "Other", noting concerns about priority dates of claimants in this category.

4. Drainage / Habitat / Flood

- a. Fred provided an update on drainage issues.
 - i. Concerns about county's stance on maintenance to clean Assink Rd last year.
 - ii. CLASS work is making progress in Bertrand. City is realizing the negative effect on farmland.
- b. Discussion on beaver management.
 - i. Gavin noted that we have an active contract with USDA. Discussion follows about current beaver issues.
- c. Discussion on Bender Ditch issues.
 - i. Board doesn't support realigning proposal at the moment but supports going to WDFW and making a map adjustment proposal, potentially including riparian mitigation.
 - ii. Action item- Gavin will connect with Frank to see what that might involve.

5. Water Quality

- a. Cynthia provided a Water Quality update by email. Mostly good numbers, with a few moderate counts connected to rainfall.

6. Next Meeting

- a. Next meeting is scheduled for February 18.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:02am.

Submitted by Gavin Willis, Ag Water Board

Approved by 